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SIGNORA LUBICHO,
AND
SIGNOR CATTANEO
GRAND CONCERT.
 Particulars will be given in a future issue.
 Hongkong, 26th February, 1883. [397]


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Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 26th February, 1883.

WILCOX, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

FIRST DAY, 21ST FEBRUARY.

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The CHAMPION STAKES, a forced entry for all China, Manila and Japan ponies winners at this meeting; optional to beaten ponies; weight for inches; entrance \$20; winners of two races, \$30; of three or more races, \$50, with \$100 added. One-mile-and-a-half.

Mr. Paul's Prejudice, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Nichols) 1
Mr. Paul's Montezuma, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Nichols) 2
Mr. John Paul's Driving Cloud, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Allen) 3
Mr. York's Strathpeffer, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Tennant) 0
Mr. St. Andrew's Bandman, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Pond) 0
Mr. Paul's Rector, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Abner) 0
Mr. Henry's Halo, 11st. 4lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 0
Mr. Paul's Sunlight, 11st. 2lb. (Mr. Bidwell) 0
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Second Violin, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Brandt) 0

The light was wanting fast when the ponies were got away for this race to a good start. Montezuma led off with Driving Cloud second, and Rector third, though the latter was displaced by Strathpeffer coming down the straight. Montezuma passed the Grand Stand with a lead of about three lengths. Driving Cloud began to close up with the leader after this and collared him going up the slope to the Rock. Strathpeffer began to come up with the leaders here, followed by Prejudice, who at the Village secured the lead and ran home an easy winner several lengths ahead of the Rock. Strathpeffer was made favourite for this race.

After Mr. Nichols had weighed, he was chaired, and heartily cheered.

OFF DAY, 24th FEBRUARY.

The off day of the races took place on Saturday, the proceedings being of a more than ordinarily interesting character for such an occasion. The weather, though not so genial and bright as on the three legitimate days, being sunless, and rather colder, was yet not unfavourable, and some very good sport was witnessed. The attendance was unusually large for an off day, and the "awap" business was in a most flourishing condition. For the first time for many years, steepchases were run, and these were looked forward to with a great deal of interest. Two such events were on the card and for them four and three ponies respectively faced the starter. In each event one pony only completed the distance without a refusal or a mishap, and that pony was in both cases the winner. The first steepchase seemed likely to fall to Mr. Paul's Chatterbox, which was leading well, and jumping freely until about two-thirds of the distance had been covered, when he "muffed" the jump near the rock and threw Mr. Nichols over his head. This cost him the race, for though Mr. Nichols was on his feet in a moment, he seemed to have pulled the bridle off the pony's head, or caused some other damage, for he was seen to be at work arranging it for some moments before he re-mounted. Mr. Paul's Cobnut had been put out of the race before this by refusing two of the jumps, and Captain Lindsay was left to win as he pleased by Ghillie Callum refusing the last jump. In the next steepchase Chatterbox redeemed his previous unfortunate defeat by winning in a very handsome manner. He cleared every jump faultlessly, and was left to finish at his leisure in consequence of Scotch Rool swerving away from the last jump. The Ambassador Cup, for beaten

griffins, only brought out two ponies, one from Mr. F. S. Gordon's stable and the other from Mr. Fraser-Smith's. For some time it seemed that there would be no race for the cup, as only Mr. Brandt had weighed to ride Scotch Rool. Mr. Fraser-Smith, however, at length entered another pony, Outy Sark, observing he did so on behalf of the public, as it would be better than a walk over. It was pointed out to him that both ponies would be run in the same interest, Messrs. Gordon and Fraser-Smith having declared a confederacy throughout the meeting. Mr. Smith then declared the confederacy dissolved, and stated that the ponies would run in opposing interests. Such description as the race merits will be found below. An unpleasant scene occurred in the weighing room immediately after this race. Some of the stewards were commenting upon it when Mr. Smith entered, whereupon Mr. Coxon, the starter, and one of the stewards, addressed him, and observed that some explanation would have to be made with regard to the race, as in his opinion, and in the opinion of the other stewards, it was a most disgraceful affair. Mr. Smith said it was his if Mr. Coxon informed any thing disgraceful to him and Mr. Coxon saying he should have that observation noted down to be dealt with hereafter, Mr. Smith, in a somewhat excited manner, repeated his observation. Mr. Coxon said he must request Mr. Smith to leave the weighing room, but the latter refused to do so, observing that he had as much right to be there as Mr. Coxon, and in answer to that gentleman, said he was entering a pony for the next race, the Opal Cup. There was a good deal of heat on both sides, and Mr. Coxon said that if Mr. Smith had been in any other position he would not have dared to give him the lie. Mr. Smith was retorting that if Mr. Coxon had not been old enough to be his father, when he made his allegation as to the race being disgraceful, but Mr. Coxon here interrupted and said that sufficient had been said, and he did not wish to hear any more; Mr. Smith could put it all in his paper. Mr. Smith said his paper had nothing to do with racing; but Mr. Coxon said he thought it had a great deal to do with it. Mr. Smith asked to have it pointed out in the rules how the race was disgraceful, and he said he was sure no money had been put upon the race. Mr. Coxon said Mr. Smith knew very well what the rules were; he (Mr. Coxon) had been connected with the races for a great number of years, and he never saw such a disgraceful affair before. Mr. Smith intimated his opinion that he knew more of racing matters than Mr. Coxon could tell him, and the latter gentleman said he had doubtless forgotten more than Mr. Smith knew, but still he had probably not had the advantages Mr. Smith had had in gaining knowledge of racing. After some more words had passed, Mr. Coxon expressed a desire to hear no more, and wished Mr. Smith to discontinue addressing him. Mr. Smith said he was not going to be put down by Mr. Coxon; that gentleman had tried before to put him down, but it was no use. The cup in question was standing in the weighing room in its box with the lid drawn up to exhibit it, but after some time had elapsed the sergeant who was acting as clerk for the stewards was instructed not to allow any one to take it away. At the end of the races Mr. Smith came for his cup, and being told of the

instructions, he went to Mr. Tripp, the Clerk of the Course, and inquired on what grounds the cup was withheld. Mr. Tripp said a protest had been lodged by Mr. Coxon, and the cup would be sent up to the Club, pending the decision of the stewards; at present his instructions were not to let the cup be taken away, but as soon as he had the permission of the stewards, he would hand the cup over to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith argued the matter for a time, and then Mr. Tripp left, upon which Mr. Smith re-entered the weighing room, and observed that he would have the cup, and if any one took it from him, he would have to fight for it. He took the cup from the table, telling the clerk that he would hold him blameless in the matter, and went out. After Mr. Tripp left, Mr. Smith, the former gentleman also had some conversation with Mr. Brandt, who said Mr. Coxon had insulted him, and he threatened to punch that gentleman's head. Mr. Tripp advised him not to use such expressions, and left him. The clerk followed Mr. Smith out, and informed Mr. Tripp of what had taken place, and another scene occurred between Mr. Brandt and Mr. Smith on the one side, and Mr. Tripp and Mr. Coxon on the other. Mr. Smith stated what he had done, and that he would have the cup, and said Mr. Coxon could do what he pleased. Mr. Brandt said he also had something to say, and though Mr. Smith tried to get him away, he said that Mr. Coxon had insulted him; and that he was not going to be insulted there by anyone, least of all by Mr. Coxon. Mr. Brandt then exchanged positions with Mr. Smith, and began to endeavor to drag him away as he took up the conversation. Mr. Smith persisted, however, in his intention to address Mr. Tripp and Mr. Coxon, and excitedly claimed his right to the cup and vindicated what he had done. Mr. Tripp advised him to let the matter drop there, and to remember that they were on the Race Course. Mr. Smith said he stood on the Race Course one of the very few gentlemen present. Mr. Tripp—"Thank you, Mr. Smith," Mr. Smith said he was not referring to Mr. Tripp. Mr. Tripp said the remark had a very limited scope. Mr. Smith said it was so; he was one of the exceedingly few gentlemen present—the extremely few; and that was not merely his own opinion, but the opinion of every person present; everyone who was there was of opinion that he was in the right. The unpleasant scene then came to an end.

The Opal Cup brought four runners, and it was carried off by Mr. W. Morgan's Faugh-a-Ballagh after a capital race. The mafco races were excellent contests, the Champion Mafco falling to a lad calling himself Tom Cannon on Mr. F. S. Gordon's Allegro. He held his position no doubt in consequence of his featherweight, 6st. 9lbs. including saddle, &c., the race being for catch weights. The mafco race for beaten ponies was gained by "Horse" on Mr. Paul's Shamrock.

The events came off as follows—
STEEPLE CHASE, Entrance \$5, with \$100 added; for all ponies; weight for inches with 7lbs. extra. Twice round.
Capt. Lindsay's Dalhousie, 11st. 5lb. (owner) 1
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's Ghillie Callum, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Gunn) 2
Mr. Paul's Chatterbox, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Nichols) 3
Mr. Keefoo's Cobnut, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 0

The ponies went off to a staggering start, Cobnut with the lead, and all cleared the water jump well, but Cobnut refused the first jump afterwards, and all the others taking it readily he was passed by them, and by the time he was persuaded to get over the jump, he was hopelessly out of the race. He also made his position still worse by refusing the next jump. Capt. Lindsay took the lead on Dalhousie, but Ghillie Callum took up the running soon afterwards, only to be displaced by Chatterbox, and coming past the Stand after the first round the latter held the lead with Dalhousie second, and the three well together. Chatterbox kept the lead until the jump near the Blank Rock was reached, when he made a very clumsy leap, pulling down a large piece of the wall with his heels, and throwing his rider. Mr. Nichols was seen on his legs again, and would not have lost much ground but that the bridle was pulled over the pony's head and it took some time to get it right again. Dalhousie led and Ghillie Callum kept close company until reaching the jump into the straight for home. Dalhousie took it well, but Ghillie Callum refused, and thus the former was left to canvas home a winner. Cobnut and Chatterbox thus got nearer to Ghillie Callum, but both failed to catch him. Chatterbox galloping all the way down the straight in the endeavor, and finishing third only a few lengths behind.

AMBAADOR CUP, value \$100, for beaten Griffins. Weight for inches. One Mile and a half.
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's Cutty Sark, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Gunn) 1
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Scotch Rool, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Brandt) 2

Messrs. Gordon and Fraser-Smith declared the confederacy dissolved at this race, and that the ponies ran in opposing interests, the ponies belonging to either stable. It looked for some time likely to be no race until Mr. Smith entered Cutty Sark. The race calls for little description; Cutty Sark took the lead and both ponies ran the first round very smartly, but after going round the Rock Cutty Sark was sent along, and he ultimately won the race by about three-quarters of a length. Scotch Rool being apparently held all the way down the straight, and not let out until it was too late to catch Cutty Sark the right side of the post, when he considerably decreased the latter's lead.

CHAMPION MAFCO, for all winning ponies catch weights. One mile.
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Allegro (Tom Cannon) 1
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's Second Violin (Shoeman) 2
Mr. Paul's Sunlight (Horse) 3
Mr. Paul's Rector (Punch) 0
Mr. Paul's Montezuma (Pond) 0
Major Bagstock's Wild Wolf (Aling) 0
Mr. Henry's Too Too (John Scott) 0

Allegro with a feather weight of 6st. 9lbs. up being in the race till near the Village, when Tom Cannon's Shamrock Celestial double brought up his mount in good style, passed the whole field rapidly, and won good race by about three lengths. Shoeman brought up Second Violin with a splendid rush at the finish, and just did home out of second place on Sunlight. Time 2 min. 4 1/2 sec.

MAFCO RACE, for beaten ponies, catch weights. Seven furlongs.
Mr. Paul's Shamrock (Horse) 1
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Gang Forward (Shoeman) 2
Mr. York's Halo (Ling) 3
Mr. Moran's Pearl (Joe) 0
Mr. Brownhead's Castigator (Shoeb) 0
Mr. Henry's Jaegers (John Scott) 0
Mr. Paul's Sunlight (Pond) 0
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Cutty Sark (Tom Cannon) 0
Mr. Paul's Shamrock (Punch) 0

Pearl got the worst of the start, and never made up much of its lost ground. Gang Forward was the first to take the lead. Horse soon pushed Shamrock to the front, however, and held the lead the whole way into the straight, half way down which Gang Forward challenged, but Horse shook Shamrock up splendidly, and won a fine race by rather less than a length. Halos a bad third. Time 1 min. 49 sec.

OPAL CUP, value—, for beaten subscription griffins. Weight for inches. Three quarters of a mile.
Mr. W. Morgan's Faugh-a-Ballagh, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Nichols) 1
Capt. David's Dugma, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Sampson) 2
Mr. Fraser-Smith's Darnley, 11st. 13lb. (Mr. Brandt) 3
Mr. Neptune's Malorido, 10st. 12lb. (Mr. Reynolds) 0

The ponies were got off to a very good start, Faugh-a-Ballagh at once taking up the running, with Darnley second, and Malorido third. This order was maintained until a short distance before the Village was reached, when Mr. Sampson began to bring Dugma up. The latter quickly got past Malorido and last Darnley coming down the straight but could not quite catch Faugh-a-Ballagh, which got home first by about half a length. Darnley was about the same distance behind in third place. Time 1 min. 42 sec.

STEEPLE CHASE, Entrance \$5, with \$100 added—for ponies which have never won a race or steepchase in Hongkong, China or Japan.
Mr. Paul's Chatterbox, 11st. 5lb. (Mr. Nichols) 1
Mr. F. S. Gordon's Scotch Rool, 11st. 7lb. (Mr. Gunn) 2
Mr. Brownhead's Blander Bles, 11st. 7lb. (Lionel Foster) 3

Chatterbox was favourite for this race, and Blander Bles only gave reason to suppose his chance hopeless, for on Mr. Foster giving him a preliminary trial at the jump next to the water jump, he showed as after dismounting to face it, and after some thrashing he scrambled over the first wall on his legs at a time to the great amusement of the lookers-on. Scotch Rool took the lead, but Mr. Nichols brought Chatterbox up to the water jump with a rush, and he cleared it like a bird, and took the lead, though he was shortly after displaced again by Scotch Rool. Blander Bles at once declined to negotiate the water jump, but he was persuaded to take it in the same way as the other jump, by scrambling over, and almost falling on his nose in the water. He surmounted every jump in the same way excepting the last, which he cleared in a more legitimate fashion. Taking the turn round to the far side of the course, Chatterbox went to the front, closely followed by Scotch Rool, and both jumped very well, but Chatterbox went over without any diminution of speed, and had thus an advantage. Scotch Rool, however, kept well up until the last jump, when he utterly spoiled his chances by swerving away from it, and Chatterbox was left to finish as he pleased, being too far ahead to be in any danger by the time Scotch Rool got over.

The following table shows the successful owners, jockeys, and horses at this meeting, and the number and wins by each, including the OFF DAY—

OWNERS.	JOCKEYS.
Mr. Paul 10	Mr. Nichols 11
Mr. John Paul 5	Mr. Allen 5
Mr. St. Andrew 3	Mr. Brandt 3
Mr. F. S. Gordon 3	Mr. Tennant 2
Mr. Fraser-Smith 3	Mr. Brandt 2
Mr. Keefoo 1	Mr. Bidwell 1
Mr. York 1	Mr. Abner 1
Mr. St. Vincent 1	Mr. St. Vincent 1
Mr. Bagstock 1	Mr. Gunn 1
Mr. W. Morgan 1	Capt. Lindsay 1
Capt. Lindsay 1	
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HORSES.	HORSES.
Driving Cloud 3	Hickory 1
Prejudice 2	Ghillie Callum 1
Opal 2	First Flight 1
Allegro 2	Bandman 1
Robert 1	Second Violin 1
Tajmahal 1	Wild Wolf 1
Strathpeffer 1	Steadfast 1
Bathwell 1	Merry Monk 1
Rector 1	Mr. St. Vincent 1
Montezuma 1	Catty Sark 1
Sunlight 1	Faugh-a-Ballagh 1
Exo 1	Chatterbox 1
Ambassador 1	

The Mafco races are, of course, not counted in the above.

THE BUFFS' BALL AT THE CITY HALL.

The officers of the Third Buffs gave a grand ball at the City Hall on the evening of the 29th February, when nearly 300 guests were present, including H. E. the Administrator and Mrs. Marsh, and Miss Thornton; their Excellencies Vice-Admiral Willis, C.B., Major-General Sargent, C.B., and Centre-Admiral Meyer, commanding the French fleet on the China Station. These distinguished visitors were received by a guard of honour consisting of two officers, the band, and fifty men of the regiment, who lined each side of the hall and the staircase. The ball was opened by the Administrator and Mrs. Hobson. Dancings were kept up with spirit until the small hours of the next morning, and the gathering was of a thoroughly successful and enjoyable character. Upon the decorations of the hall a very large amount of care and skill were lavished, and the result must have been highly gratifying to the Decoration Committee; the decorations were certainly both effective and original, and reflected great credit upon all who took part in their construction, and especially upon Capt. Gelston, who was the principal designer. To begin with the entrance, the appearance of the hall on first entering it was very striking—the pillars were bristling with pikes dressed round them, while between each pillar, standing out from among a bank of flowers and pot plants, was a field gun. There were also shields hung on the pillars bearing the badges of the regiment. On the first landing, pointing towards the entrance, was a calling room, with a small mountain gun on either side, and on the top landing, facing this gun, was a trophy composed of athletic implements. On the wall above these guns, on either side of the central window, was a star formed of the scarboards of the officers' swords alternated with ramrods. All round the first landing and up each of the staircases leading from thence to the upper landing, were parked rifles with bayonets or swords fixed on them; only about two inches intervened between the barrels, and a kind of dado was thus formed, which was continued along the top landing. On the middle door of this landing was a very artistically arranged trophy of the tools of the pioneers of the regiment, consisting of spades, pickaxes, &c., all brightly burnished, and underneath stood three small brass sentries among some pot plants. It was upon the ball room, however, that the greatest amount of skill and labour was expended, and the room has perhaps never been decorated with better effect. At the upper end of the room was placed that property of the regiment which is valued above all others, and to which every member looks with a certain amount of reverence—these are two ragged flags, reduced to most utter wrecks by the numerous fights through which they have been honourably borne; they are the Queen's and the Regimental Colours. These formed part of a grand design which filled up the centre of that end of the room. The background was formed by dark curtains, in the centre of which was worked "A. D. 1872," the year in which the regiment was formed. This is again a matter of great pride with the whole regiment, which claims the honour of being the oldest in the British army, and it is the only one which is allowed to march through the City of London with band playing, colours flying, and bayonets fixed. The regiment has indeed a long and famous history to look back upon, and can trace its pedigree back to the time when it was formed from a London Train Band of which the famous John Gilpin, who was "a citizen of credit and renown," was an officer. Before this background the drums and bugles were artistically piled on either side of the challenge shield of the regiment, on which are inscribed the names of the companies which for certain periods held the palm as being the best shots. In front of these again were pot plants, small mortars, and three piles of rifles, stacked so as to support the three drum-major's staves, with their belts, the centre one being a very handsome staff presented by General Napier, formerly a colonel of the regiment. On the wall above these was a star composed of the swords and revolvers of the officers, and a corresponding star was fixed at the opposite end of the room, formed of those of the sergeants, while in the centre of each side of the room was another star formed of the sergeants' and drummers' swords. The whole way round the room shields were hung on the walls bearing the crests of the regiment—a dragon, the old crest, a white horse, its duplicate, and a rose and crown, to denote that it is an old English regiment. These were exceedingly well executed, the credit being due to Lieut. Knight, by whom they were designed, and for the most part executed. On each of the pillars on the sides of the room there was also a shield bearing the crest of an officer of the regiment. Over every door and window of the ball room, the landing, staircase, and refreshment room were the names of the various fields or sieges on which the "grand old Buffs" have earned their hard-earned and glorious laurels; these were worked in gold letters on a red ground. The same kind of dado work of rifles with fixed bayonets and swords which decked the staircase was ranged round this room. The doors were draped round with red and white, and at the lower end of the room were two large Chinese flags. Over each shield on the walls three flags were placed, and round each gas burner, stars composed of bayonets were fixed, draped with three colours on either side. Support was set out in St. Andrew's Hall, the tables being arranged and laid with much taste. The decorations of this room, however, were of a much simpler character, the walls being simply well draped with colours. Tables were laid for 140, and one end of the room was partitioned off for the band. The refreshment room, ladies' room, and card and smoking room were treated in a way corresponding with the rest of the decorations, but the verandahs were treated in a manner that was most novel, and was no doubt found most delightful for dancers seeking a little air; it was laid out in great arbours of boughs from trees, each containing seats for two, thus giving quite a rustic charm to the place. In all 1,400 rifles, and close upon 2,000 bayonets were used in the decorations, and some faint idea may thus be formed of the labour this work entailed. The Ball Committee consisted of Major Halahan, Captain Newnam-Davis, and Lieuts. Bunbury and Vyryan; and the Decoration Committee was composed of Captain Gelston, Lieuts. Knight, Chippindall, Somerset, and Vyryan, who were assisted by many others.

The City of London with band playing, colours flying, and bayonets fixed. The regiment has indeed a long and famous history to look back upon, and can trace its pedigree back to the time when it was formed from a London Train Band of which the famous John Gilpin, who was "a citizen of credit and renown," was an officer. Before this background the drums and bugles were artistically piled on either side of the challenge shield of the regiment, on which are inscribed the names of the companies which for certain periods held the palm as being the best shots. In front of these again were pot plants, small mortars, and three piles of rifles, stacked so as to support the three drum-major's staves, with their belts, the centre one being a very handsome staff presented by General Napier, formerly a colonel of the regiment. On the wall above these was a star composed of the swords and revolvers of the officers, and a corresponding star was fixed at the opposite end of the room, formed of those of the sergeants, while in the centre of each side of the room was another star formed of the sergeants' and drummers' swords. The whole way round the room shields were hung on the walls bearing the crests of the regiment—a dragon, the old crest, a white horse, its duplicate, and a rose and crown, to denote that it is an old English regiment. These were exceedingly well executed, the credit being due to Lieut. Knight, by whom they were designed, and for the most part executed. On each of the pillars on the sides of the room there was also a shield bearing the crest of an officer of the regiment. Over every door and window of the ball room, the landing, staircase, and refreshment room were the names of the various fields or sieges on which the "grand old Buffs" have earned their hard-earned and glorious laurels; these were worked in gold letters on a red ground. The same kind of dado work of rifles with fixed bayonets and swords which decked the staircase was ranged round this room. The doors were draped round with red and white, and at the lower end of the room were two large Chinese flags. Over each shield on the walls three flags were placed, and round each gas burner, stars composed of bayonets were fixed, draped with three colours on either side. Support was set out in St. Andrew's Hall, the tables being arranged and laid with much taste. The decorations of this room, however, were of a much simpler character, the walls being simply well draped with colours. Tables were laid for 140, and one end of the room was partitioned off for the band. The refreshment room, ladies' room, and card and smoking room were treated in a way corresponding with the rest of the decorations, but the verandahs were treated in a manner that was most novel, and was no doubt found most delightful for dancers seeking a little air; it was laid out in great arbours of boughs from trees, each containing seats for two, thus giving quite a rustic charm to the place. In all 1,400 rifles, and close upon 2,000 bayonets were used in the decorations, and some faint idea may thus be formed of the labour this work entailed. The Ball Committee consisted of Major Halahan, Captain Newnam-Davis, and Lieuts. Bunbury and Vyryan; and the Decoration Committee was composed of Captain Gelston, Lieuts. Knight, Chippindall, Somerset, and Vyryan, who were assisted by many others.